



“THE JENDIT”

All the clips!

THE CREWKERNE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the spring edition of the Jendit and thank goodness the weather has finally taken a turn for the better, but more about that in a while. Well although it is only late May we at the Branch have already achieved some good fund raising to start the year off.

1940s Night at the Haselbury Mill

Firstly on February the 3rd the Haselbury Mill staged their 1940s night, which was a good opportunity for everyone to dress up in period clothing and enjoy some period food and music performed by Bertie's Big Band. The owners of the Mill very kindly allowed us to hold a raffle that night and we raised a staggering £344, so we

would like to thank Roger and Minnie at the Mill and also to all the local companies and Branch members who so very generously donated prizes for the draw. It really was a great way to start our fundraising year and we are sure all who attended had a great evening hopefully we can do it again next year, so watch this space.



Members of the Branch dress 1940's' style.



Sponsored walk

On Saturday the 24th March, ten intrepid Legion members embarked on a gruelling 6 mile sponsored walk that saw them depart from the Severalls War Memorial, then scale Seaborough Hill before descending into Seaborough village itself. They then followed the road to Misterton and then back in to Crewkerne and their final destination being the George Reynolds Centre. At the centre they were treated to bacon and sausage baps and even a beer or two. While the sponsored walk was going on other members of the Branch held a coffee morning at the GRC where members of the public were invited to try some delicious cakes and buns provided by the many Branch bakers. To complete the day's proceedings, the County Chairman (Bob McDonald), came down to present June Webb and Danny Pettit with Certificates of appreciation for all their hard work as poppy collectors over the years and also as Poppy Appeal Officers for the past 5 years. As well as the certificates, the Branch also presented them with a couple of gifts to show their appreciation.



The Poppy Walkers prepare to set off.

Crewkerne Branch President Retires

Bob McDonald also presented our retiring Branch President (Dave Lawrence) with a certificate of appreciation, as Dave decided it was time to call it a day as President after seven years in post, he felt it was time to hand the reigns to someone new. Dave is by far our longest serving member; he joined the Crewkerne Branch back in 1958 on leaving the Army after completing his National Service. As well as a gold Merit badge the branch also presented Dave with lifetime membership status.

We at the branch would like to wish Dave well for the future and hope to see him at some of our future events.



County Chairman Bob McDonald presents certificates of appreciation to Dave, June and Danny.



Legion Social afternoon tea

Back in March, we held our first Legion Social Afternoon. It was supposed to be a chance for members to come along to the GRC and just have a nice informal afternoon with tea and cake. It just so happened it was also the first bout of snow that arrived that afternoon thus making it difficult for people to get to us.

However, we still managed to muster seven members that day. In April we had a bit more luck with the weather and a good number of members attended and even managed to play a few rounds of dominoes. In May, we also managed to hold another and it does seem quite popular with a number of our members. We would like to thank Sandie and Tony Smith for organising these events and also other members that have come along and helped to make them a success.



Legion afternoon proved surprisingly popular.

Legion Night

Following Legion afternoon on Saturday 7th April, we held our very first Legion Night at the GRC it was a chance for Branch members to come down and have a few drinks spin a few dits and play traditional pub games such as darts and shove halfpenny. It was well attended considering it was our first one and we will be holding them on a monthly basis, although there won't be one in May due to other events getting in the way but our next one will be on Saturday 2nd June 6.30pm so do come along and join the fun.



The Branch holds its first Legion night, many more to follow



Newly Appointed Poppy Appeal Officer

After the departure of June and Danny as PAO's, the Branch have now appointed a new PAO, his name is Bob King and he is a relatively new member to the Branch having moved to Crewkerne from Lowestoft a couple of years ago. Bob is a retired Army Warrant Officer and is extremely experienced in many areas of the Legion having held a number of different posts in the past including Chairman and PAO at the Lowestoft Branch. We would also like to appoint a deputy PAO to assist Bob at the busy times such as Remembrance and Fete season. If you think you may be interested in the post or know someone that might be interested please contact the Secretary Alice Samuel on the e-mail address below.



Bob King, Crewkernes new PAO.

Christmas Dinner

On the 14th April, the Branch held their annual Christmas lunch at the Coach and Horses at South Perrott. The event was very well attended as usual and the Christmas lunch that the pub laid on for us was very well received by all. Following lunch we held our traditional Christmas draw. We would like to thank the staff at the Coach and Horses for their hospitality and the great food.

Dubs at the Mill

On the weekend of the 27th-29 April, the Branch were invited to attend the Volkswagen owner's club meet at the Haselbury Mill. This year being the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, the VW club decided that this year's chosen charity would be the Royal British Legion and that we should be allowed to attend and do some fundraising for ourselves. We were joined by members of the Poppy Riders, the County recruiting officer and the Crewkerne Army Cadets. All in all it was a very busy weekend and very long hours were spent by many members collecting money.



Members of the Branch, Cadets, Poppy Riders and the Dubs Pose for the Picture



The count so far is £733.27 for the Poppy Appeal and £399.51 for the Branch funds. However, it will be several weeks before we hear the final total raised by the VW club for the Crewkerne Poppy Appeal, so watch this space. We would like to thank the VW club for making it such an enjoyable event and also all our members and Cadets who came along and supported us with the fundraising, without whom we could not have achieved such a great final sum.

Branch visit to the National Arboretum

On the weekend of the 5th and 6th May, the Branch embarked on their first major excursion, this took us to the National Memorial Arboretum near Litchfield in Staffordshire. 18 of us set off in a mini bus early on Saturday morning and we took a leisurely drive up to Litchfield. After booking into our hotel, we all headed off for an afternoon of sightseeing in the beautiful city of Litchfield (highly recommended). After that, we headed back to the hotel to freshen up and then we all went out for dinner at a local restaurant. This was followed by a game of Bingo organised by Alice the Branch Secretary and after a few drinks we all retired ready for an early start the next day. On Sunday we all met for a big breakfast and then we all set off to the Arboretum where we were met by some very helpful staff members who pointed us in the right direction. We spent most of the day there and we can highly recommend the Arboretum as it is a truly spectacular collection of memorials to Britain's armed forces, Emergency Services and many more. All in all everyone had a great weekend and it was also an opportunity for us all to have a bit of social time.



18 Members of the Branch visit the NMA

Pom Pom Bombers

Two of our members, Sandie and Tony Smith, joined in the Crewkerne pom pom display by creating an RAF roundel and a Poppy to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force. The Pom Poms took centre stage of a display in Humphries and Kirk Solicitors window in Market Street.



Sandie and Tony show off their handy work.



One for your diary

A TALK ON THE RAID ON ST. NAZAIRE

BY AUTHOR / HISTORIAN PETER LUSH

IN 1942, THE AMERICANS HAD JUST ENTERED THE WAR, AFTER PEARL HARBOUR. BUT THE OUTLOOK WAS STILL BLEAK FOR THE ALLIES, THE RELIANCE ON CONVOYS TO SUPPLY DESPARATELY NEEDED FOOD AND ARMS TO OUR SHORES, FROM NORTH AMERICA, WERE SEVERELY THREATENED, BY GERMAN U BOATS. WITH THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP TIRPITZ STATIONED IN NORWAY, THE FEAR OF HER ALSO CAUSING HAVOC TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC CONVOYS WAS TOO GREAT TO IGNORE. SO PLANS WERE MADE FOR AN ATTACK ON ST NAZAIRE, THE ONLY DRY DOCK IN FRANCE WHICH COULD SUPPORT THE TIRPITZ. DESCRIBED AS "THE GREATEST RAID OF ALL" A COMBINED FORCE OF BRITISH COMMANDOS AND THE ROYAL NAVY, FOLLOWED AN EARLIER RAF BOMBING OPERATION TO ATTACK THE DRY DOCK.



Author and historian Peter Lush will give a talk on the operation at the George Reynolds Centre (GRC) Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8DA (next to the Aqua Centre) on Friday 15th June 2018 Doors open 7.30pm cost £5 per ticket (tickets can be bought from the GRC 01460 73972) or on the night All proceeds in aid of the Crewkerne Branch of the Royal British Legion

Licensed bar and refreshments available: Ploughman's and Cider or apple juice for £5.

The Branch Committee is as follows

- PresidentVacant
- ChairmanAntony Samuel
- Vice ChairmanDennis Holland
- Secretary.....Alice Samuel
- TreasurerVivien Green
- Deputy Treasurer.....Terry Austin
- Committee.....Sue Phinn
- Committee.....Brian Forster
- Committee.....Peter Brown
- Committee.....Rita Brown
- Committee.....Dennis Bowman

- Committee.....Tony Smith
- Committee.....Sandie Smith
- Committee.....Robert King
- Committee.....John Davies
- Poppy Appeal Officer...Robert King
- Standard Bearer.....Andrew Watts
- Membership Sec.....Alice Samuel
- Welfare Officer.....Sandie Smith
- Welfare Sec.....Alice Samuel
- Welfare Treasurer.....Vivien Green

Please remember, if you have anything you think might be of interest to us at the Branch, Please pass it to the editor at the e-mail address or Telephone number below. We look forward to hearing from you.